

## IALA COUNCIL 80th session



**24-28 June 2024  
Istanbul, Türkiye**

### **8– STRATEGY AND POLICY**

#### **8.2– CHANGE OF STATUS**

##### **8.2.3 – PREPARATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

###### **1. GENERAL**

Ninety days after the deposit of the thirtieth instrument, the Convention enter into force in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention. The Depositary has informed the Secretariat, that the 30<sup>th</sup> instrument has been received and that the Convention will enter into force on 22 August 2024.

The transitional arrangements of the Convention foresee that upon the entry into force of the Convention, the first General Assembly of the international organization (IGO) shall take place within a period not exceeding six months. and Singapore has kindly offered to host the first General Assembly tentatively scheduled to take place on 18 – 21 February 2025. The time from the entry into force of the Convention until the first General Assembly is called the “transition period”.

Until the IGO has elected the President, the Vice President, the Council and the Secretary-General, the President, Vice President, the Council and the Secretary-General of the association will continue in their functions as the “transition President, Vice President, Council and Secretary-General”.

In accordance with No. 4 of the transitional arrangements the General Regulations of the association shall be used “mutatis mutandis”, with the necessary changes, until the IGO has adopted its General Regulations. As a result, the General Regulations of the association shall be used “mutatis mutandis” for the preparation and organization of the first General Assembly of the IGO until the General Regulations for the IGO have been adopted.

###### **2. THE PREPARATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE TIMELINE**

Article 3 of the General Regulations (of the association) details the procedure of the organization of the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall be convened by the Council according to Article 8.8 (e) of the Convention.



In line with the transitional arrangements, the first General Assembly of the IGO must be convened by the transition Council.

The transition Council formally exists with the entry into force of the Convention. However, it consists of the same Council members as of the current Council of the association.

Article 3.3. of the General Regulations (of the association) foresees three major deadlines regarding the submission of input papers and the nomination of candidates for President, Vice President and the Council. As the Secretary-General in the association is not elected, but appointed by a selection committee, there is no election procedure foreseen in the General Regulations (of the association). As draft Article 6 of the General Regulations for the IGO dealing with the election of the Secretary-General was not disputed by the Conference in Tokyo in November 2023, this procedure is applied “mutatis mutandis” for first election of the Secretary-General at the General Assembly.

The following timelines exist:

- a. **Six months** before (18 August 2024) the opening of the GA:
  - Invitation to National members, translating “mutatis mutandis” into Member States, to submit proposals they wish to discuss at the General Assembly for the next two months.
  - Invitation to Member States to nominate candidates for President, Vice President and the Council for the next four months.
- b. **Four months** before (18 October 2024) the opening:
  - Circulation of the submitted proposals together with those prepared by the Council to Member States and the invitation to forward comments to the Secretariat within two months.
  - Invitation to Member States to nominate candidates for the Secretary-General for the next three months; nominations will be notified to Member States as soon as they are received, procedure “mutatis mutandis” with draft Article 6 of the General Regulations of the Organization.
- c. **Two months** before (18 December 2024) the opening:
  - Circulation of all final papers including the provisional agenda
  - Circulation of all nominees for President, Vice President and the Council

These deadlines are in principle mirrored in the draft General Regulations of the IGO which do not apply but might be consulted for reference when finding a way forward “mutatis mutandis”.

### 3. PROPOSAL ON DEADLINES FOR THE FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

As it is practically impossible to respect the maximum 6 month timeline until the first General Assembly and the minimum 6 month timeline for the invitation etc., the Secretariat proposes that Council 80 agrees to task the Secretary-General to issue a first invitation for the General Assembly to the Member States inviting them to submit proposals and as such follow the schedule as described under 2.a.-c. as described above on 6 month, but before the Convention has entered into force. The purpose of this decision is to give Member States enough time to submit documents and candidacies and meet the deadlines foreseen in the General Regulations. The



Secretariat follows this principle to give Member States rather more time than six months regarding submit proposals, submit candidacies etc. than cutting short these deadlines “mutatis mutandis” which would have been the alternate solution.

By following this proposal, it will be possible to keep the deadlines for the input papers, the submission and circulation of candidacies for President, Vice President, the Council and the Secretary-General and all final papers, but allow for more flexibility with regard to the timeline when organizing a final date and venue for the General Assembly within the first six months after the entry into force of the Convention.

#### **4. SCHEDULE FOR TRANSITION COUNCIL MEETINGS**

It is currently planned to have a first transition Council meeting on 17-18 September 2024 close to the entry into force of the Convention, as the transition Council has to formally convene the General Assembly and needs to agree other issues necessary for the transition phase such as the staff rules.

A second transition Council meeting possibly back-to-back with a Council meeting of the association Council is foreseen later.

In line with Article 4.2 of the General Regulations (of the association) “mutatis mutandis” it is possible to convene these meetings electronically.

#### **5. THE SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE IGO**

According to Article 4.4 of the Convention and Article 3.1 and 3.2 of the General Regulations (IGO) the General Assembly shall take place every three years, but in any case, must be held no earlier than June of the General Assembly year.

As the first General Assembly is scheduled in February 2025, it is necessary to adapt to the schedule foreseen in the General Regulations which must be seen in a greater context of concerning all meetings of the Organization including the Committee meetings and for budgetary and membership status reasons.

As a result, it is either possible to reduce or extend the first term between the first and second General Assembly of the IGO, e.g. if the first General Assembly will take place in February 2025, the second General Assembly must normally take place in February 2028. In order to change the schedule, not earlier than June, it might be possible to have the second General Assembly either not earlier than June 2027 (reduction of the 3-year-term) or in June 2028 (extension of the 3-year-term).

As the preparation for the General Assembly goes normally together with the organization of the Conference, India has offered to host the 2027 Conference and General Assembly years ago. The preparation is already advanced for 2027, and for that reason, it is proposed to have a first reduced term for the first General Assembly and to have the second General Assembly around June 2027. The third General Assembly will then take place after a full term of three years, presumably in or after June 2030.



The first General Assembly must agree on such a reduction of the term in line with its powers granted by Article 7 of the Convention. The Secretariat intends to prepare a draft Resolution to be agreed by the General Assembly in Singapore on the proposed schedule above.

#### **6. THE COUNCIL IS INVITED TO**

To note the information with a view to agree on the proposal under 3.